



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS, 3<sup>rd</sup> BATTALION, 66<sup>th</sup> ARMOR REGIMENT  
172<sup>nd</sup> SEPARATE INFANTRY BRIGADE  
Grafenwoehr, Germany APO AE 09114



Welcome to Grafenwoehr, Germany and congratulations on your selection as a new member of the Black Knight Family! As the Commander and Command Sergeant Major of Task Force 3-66 Armor, we would like to personally extend a heartfelt welcome to you (and your family, if you are bringing one) to Germany.

This historic camp is located in southern Bavaria not far from Nuremberg and is, without exception, the best place in Europe to train. Units from around USAREUR often deploy here and spend weeks away from their families to accomplish what we can do right in our own backyard. Be prepared to hit the ground ready to train hard for an important mission. This is also a beautiful location with plenty of history and traditional German culture and there will be plenty of opportunities to get out and see Europe while you are here.

You will be serving in the Army's oldest Armored Regiment- the 66<sup>th</sup> Armor. We trace our lineage all the way back to World War I and never forget the sacrifices and heroism of previous Black Knights in previous conflicts. This Task Force is a Combined Arms Task Force with two mechanized infantry companies and one tank company. We are a part of the 172<sup>nd</sup> Separate Infantry Brigade "Black Hawks" which consists of three combined arms task forces (including 2-28 Infantry and 1-2 Infantry) all based with us at Grafenwoehr. Our artillery, engineer and logistics battalions are based in Schweinfurt.

You should know that this Task Force has been directed to begin an intense train-up in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan. As we prepare for this, we are configuring our formation to fight as light infantry in rugged, mountainous terrain. Physical fitness will be absolutely of paramount importance in this training density so please arrive at the unit in good physical condition. Rifle marksmanship will also be a major focus for obvious reasons. If you foresee any reason that would prevent you from deploying to an austere location in Afghanistan for 12 months in 2011 or 2012, please contact our unit S1 immediately, prior to arriving at the USAREUR gateway in Frankfurt.

I want to stress again that Grafenwoehr is a wonderful location for both you and your Family. The German and American governments have invested literally billions of dollars into this location in the last 10 years in preparation for our Brigade's arrival. Most of our housing, billets, and unit facilities are less than 2 years old and are the finest I have seen in 20 years in the military. The schools for our children are all highly rated and well staffed. Best of all, Grafenwoehr is a tight local community with a family atmosphere.

You should be assigned a sponsor who will contact you via email through the S-Gate system. This is your point of contact for any issues or questions that you may have about the transition over to Germany for you and your family. Please contact the Task Force Staff Duty at [3-66StaffDutyGTA@eur.army.mil](mailto:3-66StaffDutyGTA@eur.army.mil) if you are within 30 days of departure for Germany and have not heard from your sponsor yet.

Again, we welcome you to the Black Knight Family. This is a strong and historic team and you are arriving at a perfect time to become a part of our continuing legacy!

Black Knights-Mounted and Ready!

MALCOLM D. PARRISH  
CSM, USA  
Command Sergeant Major

CURTIS D. TAYLOR  
LTC, AR  
Commanding